

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 4 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 4 are amended and claims 2, 3, and 5 are canceled. This Amendment is supported by the specification at least from paragraphs [0035] and [0043]. No new matter is added.

I. Rejection of Claims Under 35 U.S.C. §102 and §103

The Office Action rejects claims 1 and 3 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Okahisa (U.S. Patent No. 6,451,478); claim 2 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Okahisa in view of Hatta (U.S. Patent No. 6,797,430); and claims 4 and 5 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Okahisa in view of Ruben (U.S. Patent No. 2,536,696). By this Amendment, claims 2, 3, and 5 are canceled. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections for the remaining claims.

In particular, claim 1 and similarly claim 4 are amended to recite "an electrically insulative epoxy resin," interposing only the epoxy resin between the end part of one container member and the end part of the other container member, and the end part of one container member and the end part of the other container member that are bonded to each other only by the epoxy resin. Okahisa does not disclose or suggest at least this feature pertaining to "an electrically insulative epoxy region."

Okahisa discloses the battery sealed while interposing a thermoplastic resin such as polyphenylene sulfide (PPS), polyethylene naphthalate (PEN), polyethylene terephthalate (PET), polypropylene (PP) and adhesive between the end part of one container member and the end part of the other container member (see col. 2, lines 64-67 of Okahisa). Further, Okahisa discloses the battery sealed while interposing only a thermoplastic resin such as PP modified with maleic acid (see col. 7, lines 39-41 of Okahisa).

Thus, Okahisa does not disclose or suggest an electrochemical device including at least an electrical insulative epoxy resin, wherein the electrochemical element is sealed while

interposing only the epoxy resin between the end part of one container member and the end part of the other container member that are bonded to each other only by the epoxy resin, as recited in claim 1 and similarly recited in claim 4. Neither does Ruben disclose or suggest this feature.

Ruben discloses the adhesive 14 of neoprene or polyvinyl chloride type (see Fig. 1, outer adhesive, and col. 5, lines 73-75, col. 6, lines 1 and 2 of Ruben). The adhesive 14 of Ruben does not correspond to the epoxy resin recited in claims 1 and 4.

Furthermore, from Okahisa's disclosures at col. 2, lines 64-67 and col. 7, lines 39-41, in which a thermoplastic resin is adopted, it is apparent that a thermoplastic resin is the essential element between the end part of one container member and the end part of the other container member. Thus, it would be difficult for one skilled in the art to eliminate a thermoplastic resin and adopt the battery sealed while interposing only the epoxy resin between the end part of one container member and the end part of the other container member that are bonded to each other only by the epoxy resin. Therefore, Okahisa does not render obvious at least this feature as recited in claim 1 and similarly in claim 4. Neither does Hatta disclose or render obvious at least this feature.

In view of the above, Okahisa, Ruben, and Hatta either alone or combined, do not disclose, suggest, or render obvious at least the feature pertaining to "an electrically insulative epoxy resin" as recited in claims 1 and 4. Thus, claims 1 and 4 are allowable. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a).

II. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1 and 4 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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